

**STATEMENT FROM ROBERT WILLIAMS, ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
THE NEW YORK GAMING COMMISSION**

Commencing January 1, 2014, Stephen Lewandowski will be appointed as the State Steward at The New York Racing Association, Inc. (NYRA) tracks. Steve will replace State Steward Carmine Donofrio, who is retiring.

Carmine has served the State of New York as the State Steward at NYRA for the past 14 years and now embarks on a well-earned retirement. He will be missed not only for his expertise and sound judgment, but also for his wit, charm and kindness. Over the course of his 50-plus years in racing, hardly anyone served in more capacities in Thoroughbred racing than Carmine. He started as a jockey and ended up serving as a steward for both the NYRA and the State of New York. He was even the exercise rider for the great Hall of Fame horse Dr. Fager. Carmine has left a lasting legacy at NYRA, and on behalf of the Gaming Commission, I thank him for his service and wish him nothing but the best in his retirement.

Starting tomorrow, Stephen Lewandowski begins his tenure as State Steward at NYRA. For the past 27 years, Steve has worked for the state's racing regulatory agency, including serving as Alternate Steward for the past 14 years. He has proven himself to be a capable and dedicated leader and a fair and impartial judge. He will carry on the commitment of outstanding public service left by Carmine, and we are proud to have him in this new role.

I offer my sincerest congratulations and gratitude to both Carmine and Steve.

###